

Appl. No. 09 / 287,478
Amdt. dated Aug. 28, 2003
Reply to Office action of Mar. 28, 2003

REMARKS-General

The applicant has rewritten claims 11-13 for clarity and inserted a predecessor claim 12 into two claims for clarity (12 and 13, claim 13 becomes

With regard to item 4 of the detailed action:

Although Van Huben, et al, 5,966,707 (707) claim priority from the IBM Dec. 6, 1996 DMS PFVL filings (principally 5,812,130, but including 5,826,265, 5,864,875, 5,878,408, 5,920,867, 5,920,873, 5,950,201), it is significant that none of the Dec. 6, 1996 filings included "WebBrowser" in their text and claimed merely that "Key quality control indicators can be exported out of the DCS into an accessible format by users on the WWW". This tentative and limited disclosure of WebBrowser functionality implies that the extensive functionality disclosed in the present invention was not even contemplated by Van Huben at this time. Even within (707), some things point to a basic unfamiliarity with web technology such as the positing of the non-existent ".DOC" top-level domain ((707) Fig. 3B "HTTP://WWW.MPEG.DOC"). Since the Dec. 2, 1997 filing date of (707) post-dates the first public disclosure of the present invention, its status as prior art would seem in doubt.

However, with regards to the rejection of Claim 1, the first function of (707) is that of a Data Management System with a Virtual Control Repository that provides a uniform API to applications so as to permit homogeneous access to heterogeneous data. On top of this is layered an API relevant to the present invention that features the ability to remotely configure processes, launch them and retrieve results. However, as in our first office-action response regarding (201), it would appear that in (707) these steps ordinarily require separate actions on the part of the user, and perhaps a 4th format-conversion step for web accessibility. Van Huben doesn't exclude the possibility that these steps could be combined in a preconfigured manner for educational or evaluation purposes, but neither does he teach it. Consequently the Methods disclosed by Van Huben, et al are cumbersome with respect to a teaching or marketing tool.

Also regarding Claim 1, similar to (201), (707) discloses a "Unique File Reference" or "Unique File Identifier", which I understand to perform a function similar to the "Unique Identification Codes" associated with objects of 5,812,130 (130) and (201), but both are identifiers associated with objects, not accounts. Perhaps the claims should be modified to say "Unique Temporary Account Identifier" or something similar to make this more clear? The use of an account identifier within the Van Huben patents appears traditional, with access to a fixed set of files. Although the present invention discloses a preferred authentication mechanism similar to a traditional account login, other methods of the preferred embodiment dispense with the login altogether. The Unique Identifier of the present invention is not a fixed account ID, but effectively a transient, dynamically generated and automatically managed "account". It is associated with a plurality of files and so is not unique to any one file as in (707), etc.

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As per Applicant's Jan. 9, 2003 response to the previous action, Van Huben in 5,950,201, the Unique Identifier of the present invention can be used to identify an anonymous or unregistered user and as such is a substantially different art from that disclosed by Van Huben in 5,950,201 where identifiers are created by CRC of data objects. Although a method for authenticating the Unique Identifier by means of an internal checksum is disclosed, the identifiers themselves are not checksums of data objects nor are they managed as data objects, and so again, very different from Van Huben.

I'm confused about the reference to Col 18: line 20-25 which I have in (201) as referring to BOM notification. I think Col 23 line 17-49 is perhaps most relevant to present Claim 11?

Also regarding Claim 1, browsing static text, tabular or graphic circuit data via the web was indeed a known art in 1997, but there was no example of dynamically simulating or synthesizing such data with form data and graphical output, to my knowledge.

Regarding Claims 2 and 3, they depend for their novelty on Claim 1. However, I have amended Claim 3 to add the word "automatically" to clarify and better distinguish the present invention from Van Huben.

Regarding Claims 4-6, a unique administrator-assigned and managed account identifier is typical of Unix systems, for example, however these are not automatically created and destroyed as they are in the present invention. I don't see where Van Huben teaches a server-generated identifier in either (201) or (707). The privileges may be automatically defaulted to a low level in a newly created private library (201), but the account identifiers are not assigned automatically. Van Huben discloses checksums used to identify and validate files, but I do not see where he uses the checksum to validate the authorization level.

Regarding Claim 7, a similar response may be made as that to Claims 4-6 – the Unique Identifier is very different from a traditional System Administrator-assigned and managed account. However, Van Huben most certainly doesn't disclose the specific steps shown here for limiting simulations.

Regarding Claim 8, Van Huben (201) teaches the processing of jobs in order of priority (a known art in any event), but it does not disclose methods or circumstances by which the priority is changed automatically, unlike the present invention. Instead it mentions resubmitting jobs at the same priority. The lowering of priority by simulation count is analogous to known art for CPU load management in an ordinary multiuser computer, however, this method is specific to the present invention.

Regarding Claim 9, there is a degree of integration disclosed in the present invention not taught by Van Huben. (See second paragraph of response on Claim 1).

Regarding Claim 10, response is as per Claim 1.

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Regarding Claim 11, privilege management based on fixed accounts is a known art, however, in this case, the "accounts" may be assigned dynamically.

Regarding Claim 12 (now Claim 13), Van Huben discloses nothing about cookies in any patent but merely mentions the possibility of using a Web Browser in col 10: lines 32-43.

Regarding Claim 13 (now Claim 14), logging of data is, in the broader world of server computing a known art, however, this claims is specific to this invention.

Conclusion:

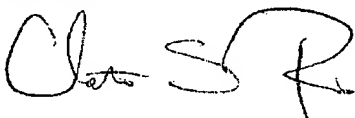
We still hold that the present application Solves a Different Problem from any of the references attached in the office action and that the field is a Crowded Art in which the methods disclosed are a significant advance over what came before. In particular the dynamically and automatically assigned, transient Unique Identifier is a novel art with respect to the field of Computer Simulation.

I will retain profession counsel to discuss redrafting the claims to further clarify the distinctions from the prior art.

Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance:

The applicant has amended the Background and the Claims so that they are proper, definite and define novel methods which are also unobvious. If, for any reason this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestion of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. S2173.02 and S707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,



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